

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: February YEAR: 2004
	SIGNATURE: Sherrie Hebert (In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area) DATE March 5, 2004
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

X

An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Persistent storms with record-breaking snowfall brought greater-than-normal precipitation to 29 of 49 reporting stations in the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area during the month of February. Massacre Rocks received 1.87 inches breaking the February monthly total precipitation record of 1.82 inches set in 1998. The Pocatello Regional Airport (PIH), receiving 237.6% of normal precip, set four separate records during the month:

Feb. 7: 0.57" of precipitation broke record of 0.45" set in 1951
 Feb. 7: 10.0" of snowfall tied all-time 24-hour snowfall record set on 8 Feb.1909
 Feb 28: 0.67" of precipitation broke record of 0.34" set in 1972
 Feb 29: 30.5" monthly snowfall broke all-time record of 23.4" set in 1922

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Overall, February precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 124.5% of normal for 49 of 52 reporting stations, according to Western Region Climate Center data. The following stations received more than double normal precipitation:

1. Paul	290.4%	2.12 inches
2. Aberdeen	255.6%	1.61 inches
3. Minidoka Dam	250.0%	1.80 inches
4. Pocatello WFO	237.6%	2.40 inches
5. Burley	225.6%	1.76 inches
6. American Falls	209.6%	1.74 inches

Pocatello's February precipitation returned the station to above normal for the water year from 96.8% in January to 123.4%, a 26.6 point. Only six reporting stations in the HSA received less than 80% of normal precipitation. Idaho Falls 2 ESE, Howe and Driggs received the least of all stations at 51.6%, 60.0% and 62.8% of normal, respectively.

Mountain snowpack experienced good increases over the month, with the major increases occurring during the last days of the month. Regarding the following regional sample, SWE is averaging 103% of normal and precip 97% of normal.

Basin	SWE % Avg		Precip % Avg Water Year 2004	
	Jan	Feb	Jan	Feb
Big Wood	94	94	88	88
Little Wood	101	101	92	97
Big Lost	99	106	90	101
Little Lost & Birch	89	93	82	93
Henrys Fork & Teton	116	108	104	98
Snake Basin Above Palisades	100	93	94	89
Willow, Blackfoot & Portneuf	110	108	100	99
Oakley	n/a	119	n/a	110

Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), March 5, 2004.

Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 42% of capacity, up 7% from February 5, 2004¹.

Reservoir	% Capacity Jan 31²	% Capacity Feb 29³	% of Average³	% of Last Year³
American Falls	48	61	81	91
Henry's Lake	75	77	83	100
Island Park	56	62	79	100
Little Wood	39	47	80	115
Mackay	39	47	68	114
Magic	11	12	26	102
Oakley	12	14	34	70
Palisades	33	37	50	93
Ririe	36	37	78	86
Lake Walcott	38 ⁴	41 ¹	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), March 5, 2004; (2) NRCS, January 5, 2004; (3) NRCS, February 29, 2004; (4) BOR, January 6, 2004

Drought

Above-normal precipitation allowed for additional improvements made to the National Drought Monitor rankings in much of eastern Idaho. The D4 region, "Exceptional", was reduced with much of the region now depicted in the D3, "Extreme", range and the far eastern mountains at D2, "Severe". Soil moisture and storage are long-term drought indicators still holding strong to the high rankings disallowing much, if any further improvement until the snowmelt season arrives.

Summary of Hydrologic Products Issued

No hydrologic products were issued for the month of February.

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